

PLO seeks enhanced IAEA status

VIENNA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will take its campaign for greater recognition at the United Nations to this week's annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Delegates said. Sources close to the Vienna-based agency said the United States could threaten to remove its 25 per cent share of the IAEA's funding if the meeting accepts an Arab proposal to enhance the PLO's status. Dawud Barakat, the PLO's permanent observer to the United Nations in Vienna and its ambassador to Austria, told Reuters the Palestinians want the IAEA to recognize a name change from PLO to "Palestine" and to widen their status. "We are looking forward to having observer status at the governing body and technical meetings," Dawud said. The PLO already sits in on the annual general conference of the organization, which is the watchdog of international safeguards on nuclear power and a forum for nuclear research. Sources close to the IAEA said the United States does not consider "Palestine" a state, and insist that the question of enhanced status in international organizations should be resolved by the U.N. General Assembly.

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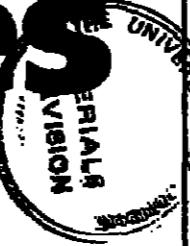
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جوردن تايمز يومي سuisse باللغة الإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي



Peace boat... Lebanese welcome a "peace boat" as it enters the port of Jounieh carrying foreign peace activists and medicine.

Airport, seaport reopened after 6 months

Beirut siege lifted

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Beirut's airport and seaport reopened Sunday after six months of war as an Arab League peace plan coaxed life back to the shell-pitted streets of the Lebanese capital.

Gunfire died into the air in celebration and people stood on balconies cheering and weeping as a cargo plane swept over the city and landed at Beirut international airport.

The Trans Mediterranean Airways (TMA) plane was the first to land since the airport. Lebanon's only commercial air link with the world, closed on March 11 at the start of artillery battles.

The port had been out of action since March 21 due to a maritime blockade imposed by Syria and its Lebanese militia allies to stop arms reaching Lebanon's rightist enclave.

Some veteran political observers were cautious about the progress since Lebanese army chief General Michel Aoun dropped objections to the Arab League peace plan Friday.

"Peace is breaking out too fast and can all be brought to a terrible stop by one shell. We still need some hard work to sort out the real causes of this war," commented a Western diplomat.

A security committee made up

of officials from the warring factions and headed by Lakhdar Al Ibrahim, an assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, met for the second time Sunday to discuss how to solidify the ceasefire and implement a peace plan.

Officials announced the day-time opening of all crossings between east Beirut and west Beirut. Only one crossing has been open sporadically during the latest outbreak of fighting.

The committee had met for the first time Saturday as some of the most ferocious artillery battles in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war came to an end.

By police count, 929 people have been killed and 2,741 wounded, nearly all of them civilians, since the bombardments began March 8 between Michel Aoun's mostly Christian army units and Syrian troops joined by allied Lebanese militias.

The airport, port and crossing reopenings prompted Sunni Muslim Grand Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Kabban to say they were "the first step on the road to resolving the Lebanese crisis."

Carrying a cargo of clothing, the TMA jet was the first plane to land at the airport, the country's only civil aviation facility, since it closed March 12, the longest shutdown since Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975.

At 1:37 a.m. (0837 GMT) the first passenger plane belonging to Middle East Airlines (MEA),

Lebanon's national carrier, landed on a flight from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah with eight passengers aboard.

They were greeted by several hundred happy airport and airline employees and bystanders.

The same MEA aircraft then took off for Larnaca, Cyprus, where it landed 57 passengers and landed back in Beirut in mid-afternoon, said airline officials in Cyprus and Lebanon. The plane later took off for Kuwait.

"After 197 days of unemployment, I feel extremely happy that I'm working again," Salim Slaaam, chairman of the airline's board, told the Associated Press.

Ibrahim arrived at the airport after the first two planes landed and met briefly with the airport's general manager, Khaled Saab. After the meeting, Ibrahim told reporters he would ask other Arab airlines to resume flights to Beirut.

Thousands of refugees from months of vicious shelling returning from the Awali River, 40 kilometres south of the capital, where they had lived for months in squall makeshift encampments.

Ibrahim arrived in Beirut last Sunday, a day after a seven-point peace plan was announced by an Arab League committee, made up of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Morocco's King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

"The front lines are quiet. Nothing major has been reported since 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) Sat-

day," said a police spokesman. "It seems that both parties are abiding by the security committee's decisions."

Ibrahim announced after Saturday's meeting that blockades imposed in March by both sides would be lifted immediately. He also said that the committee agreed to "work immediately on consolidating a ceasefire" and to reopen Beirut airport.

Limited clashes in hills overlooking Beirut erupted three hours after Ibrahim's announcement but later tapered off.

Tens of thousands of refugees who had fled the carnage jammed all entrances leading into the city and the rightist enclave for the second straight day.

All but about 150,000 of Beirut's 1.5 million population had fled the shelling to safer areas in Lebanon or abroad.

Many of those flooding entrances on highways leading into west Beirut were refugees returning from the Awali River, 40 kilometres south of the capital, where they had lived for months in squall makeshift encampments.

Ibrahim arrived in Beirut last Sunday, a day after a seven-point peace plan was announced by an Arab League committee, made up of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Morocco's King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

"I think that people understand that war or conflict cannot persist forever," he said.

Deri said he believed that after more than 21 months of the Palestinian uprising, Israelis were tired and had changed their views.

"May we have finally matured enough and should hold a referendum," Deri said. "The government continues and we accept the verdict of the people. Do we want peace or not?"

Deri said he believed that after more than 21 months of the Palestinian uprising, Israelis were tired and had changed their views.

"I think that people understand that war or conflict cannot persist forever," he said.

Deri's call for a referendum comes amid a deepening rift between the major parties over Mubarak's initiative, which calls on Israel to answer the central question of whether it wants to give up occupied land in exchange for peace.

Mubarak's plan also has divided political leaders on whether the cabinet will accept two men expelled from the occupied territories as part of a Palestinian negotiating team to hold preliminary talks with Israel.

Deri's Shas party has six representatives in the 120-member parliament and helps hold the balance of power between the left and right.

Deri, in his radio interview, said it would be a mistake to reject Mubarak's plan without careful consideration, noting the Egyptian initiative does not conflict with Israel's own elections plan.

"We are facing a breakthrough in the peace process or, heaven forbid, a cancellation of the government's peace plan. If we don't work with (Mubarak's initiative), all will be lost," he said.

An advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Bassam Abu Sharif, was meanwhile quoted in Bahrain's Arabic-language daily Akbar Al Khaleej as predicting that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue would start "before the end of the year."

The dialogue, said Abu Sharif, would be aimed at preparing for elections in the occupied territories to lead to a "transitional stage which in turn will lead to national (Palestinian) independence."

The execution marked a new crisis in Iranian-Saudi relations.

The new war of words from Tehran followed statements by so-called pragmatists in Tehran, led by the newly-elected President Hashemi Rafsanjani, that relations with the kingdom should be patched up. These moves are opposed by Iranian radicals.

In Beirut, a group describing itself as a Saudi Arabian branch of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) vowed to avenge those executed.

In Iran, the newspaper Ahar criticises those advocating better

Superpowers sign pacts, set summit

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union have signed a half-dozen accords and cleared a major roadblock to a long-range nuclear weapons treaty, then capped the day with the announcement that a superpower summit will be held in 1990.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who spent the weekend in talks with Secretary of State James Baker, said Saturday that the summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would be held in spring or early summer.

Shevardnadze also announced a key concession from Moscow to move ahead towards a long-range weapons agreement despite its objections to the United States' strategic defence initiative (SDI) peace-based anti-missile programme.

First official word of the summit plans came from Bush, who informed reporters on a golf course near his vacation home in Maine after taking a telephone call from Baker.

Bush spoke more than 1,600 kilometres from the rocky mountain resort where Shevardnadze and Baker reached agreement on a chemical weapons accord and several other points.

The agreements include:

— Exchange of data on chemical weapons by the end of the year and visits by inspectors of the other side to stockpiles and plants by June 30. In a second phase, there would be more intensive on-site inspections of the submitted data.

— An "umbrella agreement" in principle that there should be verification of missile plants and information exchanged even before a treaty to slash long-range nuclear weapons is completed.

— Advance notification to the other side of exercises with long-range bombers and other strategic weapons.

— A ceiling of 10 on launchers carrying mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles at any one base. Some of the launchers would be exposed for monitoring.

— Cooperating to enhance the power of the international court of justice to settle disputes.

— Two agreements to facilitate movement across the Bering straits of Eskimos in Alaska and Eskimos in Siberia for visits.

Iraq honours Sheikh Jaber

BAGHDAD (AP) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was awarded a medal Sunday by President Saddam Hussein to thank him for his country's support during the eight-year Gulf war. Sheikh Jaber, who arrived Saturday, was awarded the highest Rafigain Medal for "his special and distinguished position... in defence of Iraq against the dangers coming from the east." During the ceremony, the Iraqi president described Kuwait as being in the forefront of Arab countries that "early on realised the dangers the war posed against Arab security." The Kuwaiti leader arrived Saturday. He was expected to leave for Paris Monday morning. The two leaders held a second round of talks Sunday to review relations and developments in the region. Baghdad television said, without elaborating. The television also said the emir reiterated Kuwait's support for Iraq which he stressed stemmed from "Kuwait's belief in a common Arab destiny." In addition to its political backing, Kuwait is believed to have given Iraq about \$10 billion in financial assistance during the Gulf war.

ACC summit opens in Sanaa today

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

THE HEADS of states of the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) meet in Sanaa, North Yemen, Monday for a three-day summit which is expected to set the ground for increased inter-Arab economic integration through a common market and tackle some of the thorniest political issues facing the Arab World.

The four leaders — His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the host — will discuss the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and Lebanon as well as the stand-off between Iraq and Iran after eight years of war.

According to reports from Sanaa, Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), may join the four leaders at some point during the summit to outline his position on the momentum in the peace process triggered

by Mubarak's 10-point proposal over Israel's plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

The ACC leaders are scheduled to sign a series of agreements covering economic cooperation with special focus on trade, travel procedures for ACC nationals and interaction in education and sports. The agreements were drawn up by the heads of government of the four countries who met in Baghdad earlier this month.

The Sanaa summit, which coincides with North Yemen's celebrations of its 1962 republican revolution, is the second formal gathering of the four leaders, who met first in Baghdad in February to found the regional economic alliance and convened the first formal summit in Alexandria, Egypt, in June.

"We are giving priority to the economic aspect — a single market and an integrated economy," Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taiba Yassin Ramadan told reporters after an ACC ministerial meeting in Baghdad in April.

"If we do not achieve economic unity we cannot achieve

any other unity. All previous Arab unity agreements failed because they did not concentrate on economic unity," he said.

The ACC was founded in Baghdad on Feb. 16. At the other end of the Arab World, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya founded the Arab Maghreb Union the same day.

Arab Gulf states are grouped in an eight-year-old pact, the Gulf Cooperation Council. Syria, Lebanon, South Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti remain outside the three-way line-up of Arab states.

On the Arab-Israeli front, Mubarak, with the added weight that Arafat has given him with his conditional acceptance of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, is expected to seek endorsement of his initiatives to break the deadlock in peace efforts from the other three leaders. All the four countries have said that they support all PLO moves aimed at liberating the occupied territories and achieving the national goals of the Palestinian people.

On the Lebanese front, the four ACC leaders have reaffirmed their endorsement of the revised efforts of a three-member Arab League committee charged with finding an end to the country's 14-year-old civil strife.

Israeli minister suggests referendum on Cairo proposals

TEL AVIV (AP) — A cabinet minister from an ultra-orthodox religious party suggested Sunday that a referendum be held on whether Israelis accept the Egyptian plan that has deeply divided the coalition cabinet.

Hospital officials said Rafah suffered Majed Al Nawaji, 26, was attacked by assailants armed with knives and axes in the fourth killing of a suspected collaborator in three days.

An Israeli army spokesman said Nawaji was stabbed to death and police were investigating the motive.

About 115 alleged collaborators have been reportedly killed by fellow Palestinians during the 21-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation, many of them in Rafah.

Attacks have increased sharply in the past several months despite

Arafat calls for end to inter-Palestinian bloodshed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Masked assailants axed to death a suspected informer in the Gaza Strip Sunday as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat appealed for a halt to inter-Arab bloodshed in the occupied territories.

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About 115 alleged collaborators have been reportedly killed by fellow Palestinians during the 21-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation, many of them in Rafah.

Attacks have increased sharply in the past several months despite

prison, and clashes have erupted between them.

Israeli police said a petrol bomb was hurled at a police car near Damascus gate in occupied Jerusalem, causing no damage or injuries. An orthodox Jew was stabbed at the gate on Friday by a Palestinian.

In the West Bank town of Beit Sahour, tax officials confiscated property for the fourth day to punish residents who have boycotted taxes in protest against the occupation.

Soldiers and taxmen entered houses and seized television sets and video recorders, witnesses said.

Israeli army radio said the West Bank "civil administration" reopened 20 schools closed for "disturbances" over the past several weeks. West Bank schools opened in July after being closed most of the year.

Mubarak to name Palestinian delegation during U.S. visit

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will take to Washington next week the names of Palestinians who could talk peace with Israel, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

In an interview with the newspaper's Cairo-based correspondent, Mubarak also said he was confident Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat would accept Egypt's 10-point proposals for elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"He will accept them. He has the flexibility," Mubarak said in response to concerns that Arafat has so far not publicly endorsed the Egyptian ideas.

Asked if he would tell U.S. President George Bush and Israeli leaders of Arafat's commitment, Mubarak was quoted as saying: "I can say so."

Mubarak put forward his 10 points in response to Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinian representatives who would discuss limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli proposals were found inadequate by Palestinians within the occupied territories and by the PLO. Mubarak's ideas try to break the deadlock by providing for Palestinian representatives to negotiate self-determination on the basis of land-for-peace.

The Egyptian ideas have deeply divided Israel's coalition government linking the Labour Party and rightist Likud bloc led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Mubarak, who has called for face-to-face talks between Palestinians and Israelis, told the Washington Post the names of Palestinians he was taking to Washington were acceptable to

Afghanistan. There is a great difference."

In the interview, Mubarak also urged the United States not to oppose an application to Arafat for a visa to attend the U.N. General Assembly debate in New York on the Palestinian issue.

Responding to Israeli criticism that he refuses contact with Sharmi, Mubarak said he had sent the Israeli prime minister several messages in recent months but the response had not been good.

Mubarak told the Washington Post he was aware of a backlash in Israel over

Morocco has no political prisoners — King Hassan

RABAT (R) — King Hassan has said that Morocco held no political prisoners, but only traitors who would be lynched if they were released.

"These traitors have said and written that the (Western) Sahara is not Moroccan," he told a group of Spanish journalists before a state visit to Spain starting Sunday.

"My duty as guardian of territorial integrity and chief of the armed forces obliges me to put them under shelter and not threaten public order because if I released them tomorrow I assure you they would be lynched."

Morocco has been fighting Polisario guerrillas demanding independence for the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara for more than 13 years.

"I can tell you that I have no political prisoners," King Hassan said in the interview, carried by the Moroccan news agency (MAP).

He said dozens of similar prisoners had been freed after admitting in writing they had been wrong. But a stubborn hard core refused to do so and would remain in jail until they "repented and recognised in writing the Sahara is Moroccan."

Human rights groups have been campaigning on behalf of six hunger strikers demanding status as political prisoners and better jail conditions. They have also claimed the security services used torture.



King Hassan
hands of the United Nations which is trying to organise a self-determination referendum in the sparsely-populated, barren territory.

King Hassan said in the interview he would prefer not to have a referendum.

"Personally, I would wish that this referendum does not take place because it is the same family, those who are at home and those who are on the other side are brothers, cousins, parents... I do not want to divide families," he said.

Meanwhile, the Polisario said in a statement telecast to Reuters that several dozen people demonstrated outside the Moroccan embassy in Madrid for two hours Friday evening carrying pictures of missing people.

Iran fears Islamic extremists blew up French plane, U.K. paper

LONDON (AP) — Iran fears that Islamic extremists blew up a French airliner over African desert last week to sabotage President Hashemi Rafsanjani's overtures toward the West which could lead to the release of Western hostages, the Sunday Times of London reported.

The newspaper said in a report from Paris the Iranian government fears Islamic extremists blew up the DC-10 and later posed as Islamic Jihad, the pro-Iranian, Shi'ite Muslim group, when they claimed responsibility.

All 171 passengers and crewmembers on UTA flight 772 en route from Brazzaville, Congo, to Paris died when the plane exploded Tuesday over eastern Niger.

The Sunday Times quoted unidentified sources close to the Iranian government as saying Iran wants the release of all 16 Western hostages in Lebanon. It said Iran also proposes freeing an Israeli copilot captured three years ago.

In return, Iran seeks the release of Sheikh Abdul Karim

Obeid, captured by Israeli commandos in July and 500 Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel, and the release of billions of dollars of assets frozen in the United States, the newspaper said.

Leaders of 15 pro-Iranian and Syrian organisations were meeting in Tehran during the weekend to hear details of Rafsanjani's new policies toward the West, the Sunday Times said. The Iranian government plans to present the package to the United States this week, it said.

Jailed Hamas leader does not support Egyptian peace plan

TEL AVIV (R) — The jailed leader of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas said Saturday that he does not support Israel's election plan for the occupied territories or Egypt's 10 proposals on the scheme.

"I'm not for or against," Sheikh Ahmad Yassin told Israel's Arabic television in an unprecedented interview in the yard of his Israeli prison.

Yassin said while the Palestinians believe in democracy, he cannot support elections under the present circumstances. He said Israel, not the Arabs, must now make concessions.

Hamas has widespread support in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip where it has directed a 21-month-long revolt against Israeli rule along with the PLO-backed National Unified Leadership of the uprising.

Palestinian sources said Reuter's they saw nothing new in the

wheelchair-bound Yassin, 52, along with 250 Hamas supporters, all residents of the Gaza Strip, on May 22. They were accused of attacking Israeli targets and killing suspected Palestinians collaborators.

Palestinian sources said Yassin was interviewed because rumours that he was dying have been circulating in the past week. But the Hamas leader, paralysed from the neck down since childhood, said that he was being adequately treated in prison.

He said he founded Hamas at the beginning of the uprising in December 1987 and that it was organised into political and military branches.

Yassin named several prominent Palestinians as members of Hamas, but said they had already been arrested by Israel.

Palestinian sources told Reuter's they saw nothing new in the

Yassin interview. But that they viewed it as a humiliation of a formerly strong man.

Under the Israeli peace initiative, Palestinians in the occupied territories would elect a delegation to negotiate an interim autonomy arrangement with Israel. Three years later negotiations would open on a final settlement.

Egypt's ten points support Israel's initiative but demand East Jerusalem Arabs be allowed to vote, that Israel support the principle of territories for peace, and that deported Palestinians be allowed on the Palestinian negotiating team.

Egypt's initiative has split Israel's coalition government. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party is adamantly opposed to it, while Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party has embraced it wholeheartedly.

9 Kuwaiti Shi'ites acquitted of Mecca bombing return home

KUWAIT (R) — Nine Kuwaiti Shi'ites acquitted on charges of involvement in bombings in Mecca for which 16 of their compatriots were beheaded, have returned home from Saudi Arabia, local newspapers reported Sunday.

The newspapers reported their return without comment. There has been no official reaction by the emirate to the execution of its citizens by Saudi Arabia last Thursday.

They were publicly beheaded by sword in Mecca for planting three bombs in the holy city during the annual Muslim pilgrimage last July.

Four other Kuwaitis were given jail sentences with up to 1,500 lashes.

A Pakistani pilgrim died and 16 people were wounded when two bombs exploded as tens of thousands were leaving the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest shrine.

One of the defendants said on Saudi television before his execution that he had received explosives from the Iranian embassy in Kuwait.

"Iran is convinced that the recent explosions in the sanctuary

of divine peace were carried out by mercenaries working for the Saudi regime," Tehran Radio quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

The statement was the first official reaction from Tehran to televised confessions by two of the bombers implicating the Iranian embassy in Kuwait.

The consequences of this crime will undoubtedly befall the Al-Saud," he told a group of Kuwaiti theological students.

"The group were martyred because of their sympathy with the Islamic revolution and not because of the fictitious charges raised against them," Khamenei said.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the spiritual leader as saying tough action would not prevent Muslims from advocating and supporting Iran and its Islamic revolution.

A Foreign Ministry statement earlier denied any Iranian involvement in the July bombings. "If it was not so, the said persons would have been tried openly," said the paper, quoted by the IRNA.

The paper said the king had kidney cancer and turmoil was expected after his death.

Another Iranian newspaper, Jomhuri Islami, accused the Saudi government of having planted bombs itself in a bid to discredit Muslim revolutionaries.

"If it was not so, the said persons would have been tried openly," said the paper, quoted by the IRNA.



Occupied by Israel

Taba hotel struggles for Egyptian image

By Nejla Sammanah
The Associated Press

CAIRO — International arbitration a year ago resolved the last border dispute between Egypt and Israel, a squabble over 250-square (1-square-kilometre) strip of beach and the plush hotel on it.

Israel lost, but that's not immediately apparent from looking at the guest.

Six months after the Jewish state ceded Taba to Egypt, the former Aviva-Sonesta Beach Hotel is struggling to develop an Egyptian image while catering to a clientele that is mainly Israeli.

"It's still the same hotel," said Joe Sultan, the general manager through successive owners and management chains. Except, he said, "instead of a waiter called Moshe, we now have Moussa."

The names are Hebrew and Arabic versions of the same name, Moses.

Opened in 1982 by Egyptian-born Israeli builder Eli Papouchado, the 10-storey, 327-room hotel boasts panoramic views of the pristine Gulf of Aqaba and Sinai's rugged

mountains. It quickly became a favourite among Israelis, who popped across the border from Eilat in vans, buses and boats.

Although Taba had been in dispute since early 1982, when Israel refused to return it with the rest of Sinai under terms of a 1979 peace agreement, Israelis nonetheless were shocked last Sept. 29 to find the place no longer belonged to them. International arbitrators had ruled after 18 months that Egyptian claims prevailed.

Long months of haggling followed over special facilities for Israeli tourists and a \$3-million compensation to Papouchado. Egypt finally

raised its flag over Taba on March 15 and Egyptian nations marched into the hotel, Taba's only significant structure, to claim their structure.

Outside, Israeli employees burned street barricades of automobile tyres and demonstrated to protest their uncertain future. Almost 280 of the 306 Israeli workers last March have since been laid off, but the hotel still employs people from both countries.

Sultan said in a telephone interview it's become a model,

of co-existence. "This is beautiful," he said. "I wish the governments would take an example from the harmony."

Many details remained unsettled and confusion reigned at the turnover in March, but much of that has dissipated as technical problems have been ironed out.

Israelis have stayed away in the first weeks, and the hotel's occupancy rate plunged from better than 90 per cent to around 40 per cent. Sultan said that much of the lost ground was recovered by August.

Hotel shop owners, mostly Israelis, feared working under Egypt's more stringent import controls, but they've settled into their new state of affairs.

After selling their last imported swimwear to eager Egyptian buyers, for instance, they now deal only in local goods.

Prices on menus are being changed slowly to Egyptian pounds from Israeli shekels and U.S. dollars.

Most vegetables and other foods are trucked in from Nuweiba, 45 miles (72 kilometres) to the south and from other parts of Egypt.

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Bridges to be closed on Oct. 1 and Oct. 9

AMMAN (J.T.) — The King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges across the River Jordan will be closed to traffic for those travelling to the occupied West Bank Sunday, Oct. 1, 1989 and Monday Oct. 9, 1989 according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday.

The statement said Sunday, Oct. 8, the bridges will open from eight in the morning and until 12 noon and that Fridays falling on 29.9.1989, 13.10.1989 and 20.10.1989 only 250 travellers will be allowed to cross into the West Bank under emergency cases.

No reason for the arrangements was given by the PSD which appealed to all travellers to refrain from making their trips to the occupied lands on the aforementioned Fridays to allow for only emergency cases to be handled at the bridge terminals.

Jordan to attend meetings of Arab ministers' councils

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in the Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports Council meeting which is due to be held in Cairo on Oct. 14, according to a Cabinet statement here Sunday.

The statement said also that Jordan will take part in a meeting of ministers of culture due to be held in Rabat, Morocco, on Oct. 10.

The Cabinet delegated Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali to lead Jordan's delegation to the Rabat meeting. The council also delegated Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash to lead Jordan's delegation to the two-day meeting.

N. Yemenis can visit without prior approval

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemeni nationals visiting Jordan will be exempted from acquiring prior approval for the visit and will not be required to pay any residence fees during their stay in the Kingdom, according to a government announcement here Sunday.

The announcement said that the decision was taken in implementation of directives by the heads of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries which group Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq.

The decision was taken by deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh who attended the meetings in

Baghdad.

Earlier, the government decided to exempt nationals from Egypt and Iraq from any prior approval for visits to Jordan in the course of implementing resolutions that aim to enhance cooperation among ACC members.

Meanwhile, it was announced in the North Yemeni capital that the heads of labour federations in the ACC countries will hold a meeting in Sanaa in December to discuss cooperation in labour union work and labour federation's contributions to the socio-economic development of the four ACC countries.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SAKET RECEIVES WFP DIRECTOR: Agriculture Minister Bassam Al Saket Sunday discussed with the visiting director of the World Food Programme's (WFP) Mediterranean and Middle East region scopes of bilateral cooperation between Jordan and the WFP. The two officials also reviewed the achievements made by the upland development project and discussed the possibility of renewing it for a further five-year period. (Petra)

NEW ENVOY TO SPAIN: Shayer Bak, former chief of protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Ambassador to Spain. He is expected to take up his new post in a few weeks. (J.T.)

SUHEIMAT RECEIVES ENVOYS: Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat Sunday received in two separate meetings the ambassadors of Kuwait and Australia and discussed with them means of developing bilateral relations with their respective capitals. (Petra)

NEW CEMENT SHIPMENT TO EGYPT: A ship, carrying 22,500 tonnes of cement Sunday left for Egypt, as part of a 750,000 tonne contract, concluded between Jordan and Egypt. So far 267,000 tonnes have been exported to Egypt under the deal. (Petra)

EGYPTIAN EXPERT ARRIVES: The head of the Sociology and Agricultural Extension Department and professor of rural development at Cairo University, Khairi Hassan Al Saad, arrived in Amman Sunday to take part in a symposium on rural development and self-reliance economies in the occupied territories. The symposium is organised by the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee. (J.T.)

PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has drawn up a special programme to celebrate Prophet Mohammad's birthday which falls on Oct. 12, according to the Ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Helayel. The celebrations include Islamic book exhibitions, Islamic cultural contests, lectures and symposiums on the occasion to be held at mosques and Islamic centres. Helayel noted that the ministry has instructed all imams and preachers to focus in their sermons on the Islamic values and ethics and to stress the need for cooperation among the Muslim people. He pointed out that this year's theme will concentrate on belonging to the Muslim nation, safeguarding public property, rationalisation of consumption and economising in public and private spending.

ARAB PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE: Jordan is taking part in the second Arab parliamentary conference on population and development, currently held in Damascus. The conference is organised by the Syrian People's Assembly in cooperation with the Arab Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An Indian photographic exhibition — "Jawaharlal Nehru, His Life and Times" — at the Students' Activities Complex, University of Jordan.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Reoul at Irbid's Young Women's Centre.
- ★ A photo exhibition by French artist Jean-Noel de Soye displaying photos projecting fashion accessories such as jewelry, caps, scarfs and belts, at the French Cultural Centre (the exhibition also displays slides on the history of fashion).

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, on health services in Jordan by Minister of Health and Development Dr. Zahair Malhas at the Jordanian Writers' Federation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A French film entitled "Trois Hommes à Abattre" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



University hosts exhibition on Nehru's life

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition depicting the life and a work of the late Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was opened at the University of Jordan Sunday. The exhibition set up to mark Nehru's 100th birthday anniversary displays 80 photo-

graphs featuring the late premier throughout the various stages of his life and at the time of India's independence, and his meetings with Arab leaders. The week-long exhibition has been organised in cooperation with the embassy of India in Amman and

within the framework of Jordanian-Indian cultural and educational cooperation. Several members of the diplomatic missions in Jordan including the Indian ambassador were present at the ceremony which was opened by President Mahmoud Al Samra.

Jordanian troupes to perform at Babylon Festival in Iraq

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan will take part in the international Babylon Arts Festival which began Friday in the ancient Iraqi city.

An announcement here said that the Kingdom will be represented by a national folklore troupe affiliated to the Ministry of Culture which was set up here last year.

It will be the first trip by the troupe abroad to present Jordanian folk performances, the statement noted.

It said that the troupe, which groups 15 young men and women, will present dabkeh national dance and traditional songs which are normally presented at Jordanian weddings in all parts of the country.

The Ministry of Culture has also nominated Al Fubeis Folk Troupe to take part in the Babylon Festival.

The ancient city of Babylon, partially rebuilt by President Saddam Hussein, is echoing again to the sound of music and drama in the cultural festival which symbolises both the golden age of Iraq's history and the country's post-war reconstruction.

The festival opened Friday night with scores of Iraqi dancers leaping across a stage in the courtyard of the restored palace of King Nebuchadnezzar II, who ruled Babylon at the height of its glory 8,000 years ago.

The ballet, based on Babylonian music, told the story of the legendary city that was the centre of an empire in ancient Mesopotamia, or land between the rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris.

Before an audience of 1,500,

said Jassim officially opened the festival "on behalf of President Saddam Hussein, builder of Iraq and Babylon... city of glory and civilization."

Saddam visited the city Friday and inspected preparations for the festival. He opened new facilities built around the ancient city, including restaurants, guest houses, modern markets and boutiques, part of a major tourist complex being built around the resurrected Babylon.

The red mud-brick monuments such as Nebuchadnezzar's southern palace, the temples and the fortress-like Ishtar Gate at the entrance to the city will also serve as a backdrop for fringe activities that include poetry recitals, plays and art exhibitions.

The opening performance featured songs written 6,000 years ago, and deciphered from ancient stone tablets.

Munir Bashir, the festival's chief director, said the ancient music was played primarily on harps, some of which have been found in Babylon's ruins. He and other Iraqi researchers spent months unravelling the notations on the stone tablets to reproduce the primitive tunes.

Bashir, 59, is director of music at the Ministry of Information and Culture and is the world's most renowned virtuoso of the oud, an Arabic stringed instrument that was the forebear of the lute.

Information Minister Latif Nis-

Inspection teams help to reduce unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — The work of Labour Ministry inspection teams is currently helping Jordan reduce the effects of the unemployment problem, and is organising the local labour market, Minister of Labour Jamal Al Bedour said Sunday.

This year the rate of unemployment compared to the total Jordanian workforce was estimated at 9.1 per cent and the proper work of the inspection teams is helping Jordanians take up positions filled by foreigners, the minister said in a statement at the opening of a training course for a group of Labour Ministry inspectors.

The Ministry of Labour, Bedour said, aims to create an opportune climate for all Jordanians to work in various economic and social fields to help increase production.

The Labour Ministry will continue to firmly apply the law and will impose strict penalties on violators, the minister warned.

AAU to attend Prague preparatory meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based association of Arab Universities (AAU) is taking part in a meeting that opened in Prague Sunday to prepare for a general conference by the International Association of Universities (IAU) which will be held in Helsinki next year.

The six-day preparatory meeting is attended by the AAU board members who will prepare an agenda for next year's Helsinki conference.

Dughein, who left for the Czech capital Saturday to attend

NRA begins implementing new phase of oil exploration strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) is embarking on a new phase of work and activities in the course of implementing its national oil exploration strategy in the Kingdom and will encourage foreign oil companies to help Jordan find oil and natural gas, NRA Director General Kamal Jreisat announced Sunday.

The attraction of the foreign oil companies to prospect for oil here will be the first step in the coming stage which also entails continued oil exploration programmes by the NRA teams in various parts of Jordan, Jreisat noted in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the NRA will maintain an open door policy with the foreign oil companies, providing them with all necessary information collected by the NRA to help them find oil, and it will also create an atmosphere of competitiveness among the foreign oil companies in the Kingdom.

Jreisat said the coming NRA programme will include the following: Developing the Rishe Gas Fields near the Iraqi border, conducting further tests to determine the amount of oil reserves in the Sirhan region, increasing oil production from the Hamzeh well, maintaining oil exploration work by NRA teams, creating an independent national oil company, and expanding NRA's role and control over all companies exploring for oil in commercial quantities.

An Austrian firm last March signed an 18-month contract with the NRA to drill for oil in the eastern part of Jordan.

The Austrian mineral oil company has agreed with the NRA to explore a 5,500 square kilometres block in the Sirhan region, in eastern Jordan, to carry out 700 kilometres of seismic survey, to process 150 kilometres already executed by the NRA and to do geological, geophysical and geochemical studies.

The red mud-brick monuments such as Nebuchadnezzar's southern palace, the temples and the fortress-like Ishtar Gate at the entrance to the city will also serve as a backdrop for fringe activities that include poetry recitals, plays and art exhibitions.

The company was expected to spend about \$2 million on drilling, according to the agreement.

Jreisat said in his statement to Petra that there were good indications and prospects for finding oil in Jordan in commercial quantities because the country abounds with oil shale and large

amounts of natural gas, mostly at Al Rishe region, and the presence of asphalt near the Dead Sea.

Referring to the long history of oil exploration in Jordan, Jreisat said that the Kingdom started prospecting for oil in 1946. He said that NRA has conducted surveys and drilled 14 oil wells in cooperation with oil companies between 1946 and 1976.

But he said, in view of the absence of oil finds in commercial quantities the foreign companies stopped their tests and search for oil after 1976.

Another reason for stoppage was due to the lack of sufficient funds for the oil prospecting programmes, Jreisat added.

Since 1976, the Jordanian government spent \$25 million on oil exploration in Jordan and the NRA's work has thus been increased in the absence of foreign oil companies, Jreisat pointed out.

Jreisat gave details about NRA's operations that covered drilling experimental oil wells and conducting seismicological surveys to find oil in commercial quantities.

Jreisat expects Petro-Canada oil company to spend \$32.1 million and the Japanese company \$5 million in the oil prospecting operations.

Later Sunday, Jreisat left for Damascus for talks on Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in exploiting natural resources and oil exploration.

The talks will be conducted with officials and technicians from the Syrian Ministry of Minerals and Petroleum and are expected to culminate in the conclusion of a number of agreements on bilateral cooperation.

NRA board approves new set of recommendations

AMMAN (Petra) — A set of decisions and recommendations were passed Sunday by the National Medical Institution's (NMI) board of trustees designed to promote the work at Jordanian hospitals.

The hospitals are run by the NMI which will take charge of the operation in cooperation with the committee, according to the statement issued at the end of the meeting.

NMI Director General Daoud Hananah presented an outline of the institution's activities and programmes to the meeting which was attended by several ministers and Jordanian university presidents.

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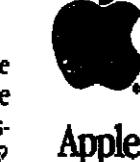
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Soviet signal

THE SOVIET invitation to Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres to visit Moscow is a clear signal from the Kremlin that it seeks to enter the Middle East fray and help the process of peace in the region. The invitation to Peres also suggests that Moscow seeks dialogue with the Israeli Labour Party rather than with the Likudniks who have put up one obstacle after the other in the face of all past and recent efforts to move the peace process in the Middle East forward.

As the Israeli establishment attaches considerable importance to the cultivation and promotion of working relations with the Soviet Union, the Soviet choice of the Labour Party as the instrument or catalyst for Soviet-Israeli dialogue should serve as a signal to Israel that its interests could better be served if it opted for adopting the policies of the Labourites. The acceptance of this valuable invitation by Peres could therefore precipitate the downfall of the present coalition government in Tel Aviv and accelerate the process leading to new elections in Israel. Egypt's 10-point plan has already caused a deep split in the ruling Israeli establishment along Likud-Labour lines. And coming as it does on the heel of an emerging serious division of opinion in Israel on how to take the Cairo mediation effort, summoning Peres to Moscow at this critical juncture would suggest that the break down of the government in Israel is imminent.

This is not to suggest that a Labour led government in Israel — assuming that that was possible — would provide a ready-made solution to the Palestinian question. It would be naive to presume that the Labour Party in Israel has evolved so much and has changed its colour to such an extent that accommodation with the Palestinian side has become within reach. What needs to be assessed is whether Labour's apparent choice for talks with the Palestinians is tactical, aiming for the arrival to power again, or truly strategic aiming for realistic compromises with the Arab side. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that with the Likud bloc there is no hope whatsoever to reach a settlement that all sides can live with, whereas with the Labour there is a possibility, albeit slim, to accept the consequences of the Palestinian intifada and Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. The impending visit to Moscow by Peres could shed much light on this and other related inquiries.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies appearing Sunday heaped praise on the Arab League mediation committee on Lebanon for its efforts to find a settlement to the conflict.

Al Ra'i daily said that the Arab people in general and the Lebanese in particular must be delighted with the outcome of these efforts, represented in an overall agreement by the conflicting parties to end the bloodshed and start negotiations for peace. The paper said that it remains to be seen whether the factions in Lebanon and all those involved in the Lebanese question will remain committed to the tentative agreement. The return of the citizens of Beirut to their homes which started Saturday following the announcement of a ceasefire is a good indication that the problem is finally on its way for a solution, said the paper. But it should be noted that patience and perseverance are required in the long and strenuous process aiming at a settlement and a lasting peace, the paper added. Any difficulties from now on should be dealt with objectively and with a great measure of patience, otherwise the Arab League's efforts would be hampered, the paper said. It said that the long bloody conflict must have taught the Lebanese people a good lesson that nothing can be achieved through violence and war.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* praises the Arab League and its mediation committee for this good result. It must be said that the will of the Arab people in Lebanon and the determination of the Arab League for success have paved the way for this fruitful result and gave credit to the Arab order, Rimawi says in his Sunday column. The Arab League has indeed achieved a breakthrough and won the respect and support of the whole international community and above all, proved that the Arab governments can and must find ways to solve their problems and safeguard the interests of their people, the writer continues. But he says the agreement for a settlement can never succeed unless the Lebanese people themselves are seriously involved in the peace-making process and unless they continue their efforts to achieve reconciliation and peace. Only through peaceful negotiations and democracy can the Lebanese find a lasting settlement and prevent foreign forces from tampering with their own affairs, the writer says. He adds that in the civil war there should be no victor or vanquished if the country's independence and sovereignty are to be protected.

Al Dastour daily criticised Israel's position with regard to peace efforts being made by Arab and foreign countries while the Palestinians are showing increasing tendency to achieve peace, Israel maintains its intransigence and stubbornness; and pursues its repressive measures against the Palestinian people, the paper wrote. It said that every time the Arabs come up with a peace initiative, Israel counters this trend with new obstacles to impede the peace process with the purpose of perpetuating its occupation of Arab land and keeping the Middle East region as explosive as ever. Shamir's recent statements and Israel's extremist position with regard to Arab peace bids should not be allowed to continue, said the paper. Should the United States allow Israel to maintain such policies the paper concluded, it would be opening the way for further threats to the interests of all those concerned in the Middle East region and its problems.

Weekly Political Pulse

There must be ways to rescue the jobless

By Waleed Sadi

THEY come alone or in droves; fine young Jordanian men and women with university education seeking jobs of all kinds. Many do not even care what position they are offered, all they care about is to land a place in the employee population. The trouble, of course, is that 99 per cent of them will be turned down as openings are extremely scarce, if not non-existent.

Such daily scenes occur practically everywhere in Jordan these days. No public or private department escapes from the cluster of such fine specimen of young Jordanians stampeding their front doors every morning with hungry looks for jobs. As one of those who have to confront the growing applicants for jobs with little or nothing to offer them in return, I watch with anguish the unfolding of a very serious problem facing the Kingdom. Often I try to sugar-coat my negative replies. At all times I feel that by closing the door completely or slamming it in their faces I will undermine their confidence and their sense of belonging to their homeland. It is an awesome responsibility to reject the youth of today on a daily basis. The ultimate price could be staggering. Fear now haunts all employers, who have no employment to offer, that by leaving the job-seekers with no hope they will be driving them to despair and away from their people and country to seek satisfaction elsewhere.

What exacerbates this ongoing drama is the feeling held by the rejected job-seekers that no one really cares about them or whether they leave their country and people or stay. This apparent sense of indifference of unemployed young Jordanians

encounter fortifies their inner feeling that they are of marginal importance and doomed to stay on the periphery of the list of Jordan's priorities.

Obviously this human drama lies in stark contrast with the economic realities imposed on Jordan and which ordain that there are simply not enough jobs to go around and that sound fiscal policies call for keeping the eyes of officialdom closed in the face of this growing problem. After all, we are all reminded, the dire economic conditions imposed on the country a string of demands culminating in tightening the belt of the entire public sector and much of the private sector as well. So our economic and financial wizards cannot afford to have a human face superimposed on their austerity policies. They have their priorities and the human dimension is seldom an integral part of them.

But what if the country loses the majority of its youth? What if the youth became alienated? Is it possible that such negative and ominous developments have no price tag that the economists and financiers can discern? If, as we always remind ourselves that the future of the country lies in the hands of the youth, which happen to compose more than half of the total Jordanian population, should we not show a bit more care about their lot in order to win them over in the service of their country? And what about the huge investments expended to have them educated and trained; does not that also have a price tag that must be reckoned with when we decide to be indifferent about the human dimension

of our so-called realistic policies?

As one of the many employers who are saddened every time they reject the young from taking their place in the making of our future, I think a lot more can and should be done to alleviate the sufferings of our youth. To me to recover their sense of belonging is of higher importance than satisfying the demands of the International Monetary Fund and all the other international financial centres put together. After all, without the participation of our youth in the building of their country there is not much of a future for the country.

Luckily it is also possible to reconcile the calls for strict austerity measures with plans to reintroduce our jobless youth to the mainstream of the employed Jordanians. I hate to believe that it is beyond the ingenuity of our economic planners to come up with rescue operations by creating jobs for the jobless in areas that could serve the interim economic objectives of the country. Expanding the export-oriented companies could be one of the easy ways to salvage the situation. Introducing the five-day working week could also be effective in spreading work around. Reducing double shifts and eliminating as much as possible opportunities for double job holders could also go a long way to rectify the situation. But whatever is the method employed for this purpose, it would be more economical in the long run to keep our youth employed than have them alienated, rejected or emigrated to other countries.

Afghanistan—harassment is main rebel tactic

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

SHINDAND, Afghanistan — The commander of the local army garrison knows the rebels will be back.

They have attacked this mud brick town, a few kilometres from a major air base, three times this year. After each foray, they evaporate back into the hills or surrounding villages. It is a tactic repeated throughout most of the country.

"They are not so near as they were before, but I don't know exactly where they are," said Col. Mobine Nurzi.

After the Soviets finished their troop withdrawal in February, the U.S.-backed rebels, known as Mujahideen, were predicting they easily would capture provincial centres like Jalalabad, if not Kabul itself.

Now, seven months later, their military campaigns remain centered on the type of harassment that successfully drove the Soviets home.

But guerrilla tactics do not appear capable of winning a civil war against the Kabul government or even much leverage at the bargaining table. And fatigue of war, rampant among civilians after 10 years of fighting, also is infecting the guerrillas. The conflict has claimed an estimated 1 million lives.

The government also uses high-flying fighter-bombers, well out of range of the shoulder-fired Scuds used against rebel positions along the border, to multi-barrelled rocket launchers used for shorter distances.

Attacks on Kabul have dropped sharply since August, when Frog-7 missiles, with a range of 70 kilometres, were deployed to knock out guerrilla positions around the capital.

The government also uses high-flying fighter-bombers, well out of range of the shoulder-fired Scuds used against rebel positions along the border, to multi-barrelled rocket launchers used for shorter distances.

Pilots on the runway in the southern city of Kandahar, fearing guerrilla missiles, taxi at 160 kilometres per hour. Soldiers said at least 10 rockets fall daily.

Troops at the last checkpoint in north Kabul before the Salang highway, the supply lifeline from the Soviet Union, report it was closed by guerrilla attacks for a few hours several times over the past week.

At the daily press briefing, the government spokesman reports a litany of "sweeping and mopping-up operations" throughout the provinces bordering Pakistan, where the rebels are headquartered.

The repetition indicates that the rebels cannot be completely swept away by military force. Still, the government is confident they can be held in check.

"Despite the attempts of the extremists, the situation in the country is by and large calm," President Najib told a group of foreign visitors last weekend.

The government claims rebel commanders have stopped fighting because of agreements with Kabul, but it has yet to name any who have switched loyalties.

Government officials have said Ahmed Shah Masood, the commander of the Janat-E-Islami rebel faction who controls the Panjshir valley, is in contact with them through junior commanders.

But Mahmoud Baryalai, the first deputy prime minister in charge of supplies, said earlier that the 100 or so vehicles were bogged down by guerrilla rocket fire on the last 150 kilometres of road before Kandahar.

The rebels claimed to have knocked out 110 trucks. The government said it lost three trucks and a tank but that a year's supply of ammunition got through.

The convoy apparently veered off hundreds of miles into the desert to avoid the attacks, eventually taking more than three

weeks to cover the 600 kilometres from the town of Torgundi on the Soviet border.

While sporadic attacks can interrupt supply routes, the rebels have been unable to take a major town.

A concerted attack on Khost, 40 kilometres from the Pakistani border, threatened the city briefly in late August. But diplomats said the rebels lacked the sustained supply routes needed to overcome government forces surrounded by dense mine fields and tanks.

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But one soldier said: "They really pounded us before withdrawing. How do we know how many were killed?"

Najib said the guerrillas had lost more fights in the last six months than in six years of fighting. Rebel morale is reported to be low.

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Bush's BI ends with a whimper

By Jonathan Fenby

To: Secretary of State
From: State Department/NSC
Joint Liaison Planning Group
September 19, 1989
Subject: End of history
Background:

1. Meetings in winter 88/89 determined that the Administration needed to nurture a "Big Idea" (BI) capable of providing intellectual underpinning for a two-term Bush presidency. The need was pressing in face of Gorbachev's public relations success.

2. The president gained ground with arms reductions proposals while the Administration's businesslike style created favourable international reaction. But, with democratisation in Poland and Hungary, negative fallout was feared if the U.S. is seen as stand-pat while positive movement was apparent in the east.

3. The article by Francis Fukuyama (FF), deputy director of State Department policy planning staff, entitled "The End of History" was identified as our prime BI candidate. Digests from the National Interest magazine were circulated.

4. FF's 16-page article is summarised as follows. It advances the argument that the 20th century is ending with "an unabashed victory of economic and political liberalism." Marxism is dead or dying fast. This means a growing "common marketisation" of international relations and less likelihood of large-scale conflicts between states: in short "the end of history." While some countries will remain in the past, the post-historical future will consist of "economic calculations, the endless solving of technical problems, environmental concerns, and the satisfaction of sophisticated consumer demands."

5. Historico-philosophical roots. FF goes back to Hegel's judgment that Napoleon's victory over the Prussians at Jena in 1806 meant history was at an end. He cites the Russian-French Hegelian of the 1930s, Alexandre Kojeve. So the idea is not new, but who remembers Hegel and Jena, let alone Kojeve?

6. TA preliminary check showed that FF was well received in conservative circles. Publications in West Europe and Japan were planning to run him as a guide to Bush Administration thinking.

7. The End of History was seen as a demonstration that, whatever advances Soviet policy might appear to offer, Gorbachev is not a trail blazer, merely a catch-up artist swept along on a wave of history already ridden by the West.

Current status:

1. FF's thesis has been criticised

by commentators not known for pro-Marxist bias. The New York Times said FF "crystallises what many might love to believe" but "overstates the triumph of liberal democracy in the West and ignores a major rival in the East (Japan)." Time magazine's outgoing Washington bureau chief, Strobe Talbot, called it "The Beginning of Nonsense," describing FF's thesis as "pernicious" and "afflicted by a peculiar combination of arrogance and shortsightedness."

2. Further evaluation highlights problem areas, some major, some small but potentially embarrassing. Among them: On his first page, FF talks of this century starting full of self-confidence in liberal democracy. In Wilhelmine Germany or Tsarist Russia? FF gets into his Hegelian "history at an end" stride. The problem is that, Kojeve and Marxist distortions notwithstanding, Hegel seems to have got it wrong. There has been an awful lot of history since 1806 — and is Napoleon's centralised, bureaucratic, interventionist, militaristic, post-revolutionary state a good antecedent for post-historical democracy?

Concluding the Hegel section, FF says his triumphant "universal homogeneous state" might be described as "liberal democracy in the political sphere combined with easy access to VCRs and stereos in the economic." That sounds a little flip in the big ideas realm — and what would Commerco think of giving Sony and Co such an endorsement?

His conclusion is that large-scale world conflicts will be a thing of the past when history ends because such conflicts must involve large states still caught in the grip of history, which they won't be any more. So "conflict" takes no account of economic

rivalries and non-military battles for influence. Harking back to the "common marketisation" notion of the future world, FF does not seem to realise that the European Community's plans for 1992, if they work, will actually usher far more competition between West European nations.

Not armed competition, indeed, but then nobody has thought a European war likely for quite some time now. Anyway, armed great power competition has not always sprung from ideologies as FF implies — the First World War or the Russo-Japanese war or the Franco-Prussian war were hardly ideological conflicts.

Conclusions:
FF ends by acknowledging that "the end of history will be a very sad time" in which there will be no call for daring, courage, imagination or idealism and no new art or philosophy. According to his final sentence, the boredom of post-historical life may get history going again. This seems (a) an unattractive message for supporters of liberal democracy (b) a self-defeating conclusion, after so many heavy assertions of the inherent correctness of the case (c) a case, as the British say, of having his cake and eating it.

Earlier on, FF informs us that his concern is not with short-term events, but with underlying trends. That may be just as well. Many readily observable short-term and medium-term events do not fit his diagnosis — some actively contradict it. An old-fashioned, big-power-centric view of the world and a particular historical perspective further undermine the End of History. Not another Kennan: the Bush years still need a Big Idea — The Guardian.

Scars that won't heal

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three children run around the Palestine Hospital grounds, playing and laughing and being naughty, like any other kids but with marked physical disfigurements. Arafat, six, Ahmad, seven, and Naiwa, 10, are here for plastic surgery because of serious burns inflicted upon them by Israeli soldiers.

Israeli soldiers were chasing Arafat's older siblings March 30, 1988, (Land Day) in a refugee camp in the occupied Gaza. The soldiers entered the house where Arafat was playing, and his mother was frying fish for lunch.

After a brief questioning on where her older children were, a soldier knocked over the boiling cooking oil that contained the fish over the right side of Arafat's face and neck.

Arafat was also playing in a street where stones were being thrown and tyres being burned in Gaza last year. In the confusion that followed after the occupying forces rushed to break up the demonstration, a burning tyre landed on Arafat's head; a soldier had thrown the tyre in the direction of the protesters, and Arafat got third degree burns.

Naiwa was in her home in the West Bank town of Abu Dees when a tear-gas canister landed at her feet and exploded. The result: third degree burns on her inner thighs and stomach.

The three children are being treated by plastic surgeon Ziyad Kayaali at Palestine Hospital in Amman. He told the Jordan Times that there are no Arab plastic surgeons in the occupied territories, and most Palestinian

families cannot afford to be treated at Israeli hospitals.

Kayaali said tear-gas burns are especially difficult to treat because of the complexity of the contents of the canisters.

"There are cases of tear-gas inhalation burns that we cannot properly treat," he said. "Since the canisters are manufactured in the United States, a group of interested specialists have asked the concerned American parties for the antidote for the tear-gas to know how we can treat the burns accordingly," Kayaali said.

These children are still children now; they will eventually improve, and the scars will hardly show when the plastic treatment is over. According to Kayaali, they will grow up and continue their lives like all other children. But will the scars left behind in their mind go away?

Permanent injuries

But Majdi is 21, and his injury is permanent: he is paralysed from the waist down. Majdi was stabbed with a knife in the back by a fellow Palestinian "collaborator" last February because of his nationalistic stands.

Majdi, a car mechanic from Nablus, sat in his wheelchair as he spoke without much remorse about his experiences with the Israeli occupation authorities.

His large green eyes were full of pride as he spoke about his 75-day experience at Ansar III prison in the Naqeb desert. Ansar III is a detention camp that was opened following the eruption of the intifada 22 months ago, and is said by many to be very similar to the Nazi concentration camps of World War II. As he put it to the

Jordan Times, "that prison needs an intifada of its own."

Majdi's mother, who also spoke to the Jordan Times, said that her four sons have been arrested by the Israeli authorities during the intifada. She is proud, "even my 12-year-old was arrested," she said, adding that "many homes in Nablus have contributed to this struggle against Israeli occupation."

When Majdi was stabbed and his spinal cord was damaged leaving him paralysed, he tried to get permission from the authorities to cross the bridge to Jordan for further treatment.

"The process took six months. I was told that I could not come back for nine months, but I didn't care. I just wanted to seek further treatment. I got permission to leave several times, but they kept sending me back at the bridge giving different excuses. Once, the Israeli administrator pretended not to believe that I was disabled," Majdi said.

He added that after continued and frustrating efforts, the Red Cross stepped in and thus he was finally able to cross the bridge into Jordan.

Defiance despite injuries

Majdi's neurosurgeon at Palestine Hospital, Dr. Nasri Khouri, said that "many Arab hospitals are not capable of treating certain injuries, and the Israeli hospitals reject admittance to Arabs unless they pay a lot of money." There are many cases where leaving the occupied territories for treatment is vital, according to Khouri.

Khouri cited some systematic measures taken by the occupying authorities to pose obstacles for

patients trying to leave. "Injured young men between the ages of 15 and 35 are allowed to leave only if they stay away for a minimum of nine months," Khouri pointed out.

Palestinian men must also prove that they have paid all their taxes before being allowed to leave. "And now with the Palestinian civil disobedience campaign, the majority of Palestinians are not paying taxes in defiance of the Israeli occupation. Therefore, there are many adult men who want to accompany their injured children cannot leave the occupied territories," he noted.

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50,000 disabled for life

"Assuming that half of these injuries are long-term disabilities, that's 50,000 disabled Palestinians. With a population of 1.7 million, that means two per cent of the entire Palestinian population living under occupation will have to live the rest of their lives with different disabilities inflicted by Israeli soldiers. This is the same percentage as diabetics in Western societies," Khouri explained.

The doctor added that this has



Arafat, 6 years old



Ahmad, 7 years old

Palestinians suffering from long-term disabilities because of the Israeli occupation are not just numbers, they are as real as Majdi.

Majdi has been in Amman for a month now, and he might travel abroad for further possible treatment: he has another eight

months to kill before he is able to return to Nablus, where he "will adapt to a life with my new circumstances," as he said.

Although he sits in a wheelchair, Majdi knows he is only one in thousands who is suffering as a result of Israeli occupation. He knows that more people will con-

tinue to suffer "as long as the Israeli occupation continues. No matter how many are killed or wounded," Majdi added with his large alert eyes looking for his cigarettes which lay on his hospital bed. "The intifada will continue until we have our independent Palestine."

By Colleen Lowe Morna

Tens of thousands of Zimbabwe's school-leavers with only academic skills, face the prospect of unemployment. An innovative school offers a way out of the dilemma with a practical curriculum geared to earning a living and self-employment.

HARARE.—While most school pupils in Zimbabwe go to class in well-pressed dresses or trousers, boys and girls at Mupfure college turn up in blue overalls.

Unlike most schools in Zimbabwe which teach the curricu-

ulum for the academic "O" and "A" level exams set in London, Mupfure offers courses with strict practical relevance to pupils' lives, and none are for examination purposes.

In contrast, an 11-year education was compulsory for the rich, minority white population. Not

surprisingly, black students viewed an education as their only hope of breaking out of the impoverished rural areas, and into well-paid urban jobs.

The new government lost little time in making primary school education free and compulsory for all Zimbabweans, while promising a place in secondary school for anyone wishing to go on.

Almost overnight, school enrolments quadrupled, forcing many schools to add on fresh classrooms, as well as introduce a system of "hot seating" or double shifts. Today, no Zimbabwean child is denied an education.

The problem, however, is what happens after pupils leave school. Next year alone, some 300,000 school-leavers are expected to

join a labour market with only 10,000 new jobs available.

Economists predict that by the turn of the century, some three million youth — or about half Zimbabwe's labour force — will be jobless.

According to the Minister for School Education Faye Chung, Zimbabwe must industrialise to create more jobs. But she stresses that, in the short term many Zimbabwean school-leavers will have to be self-employed, mostly in the rural areas.

Efforts have been made to bring home that reality. Says Chung: "We have made the curriculum focus on Zimbabwe, away from preparing people to live in London." In addition, most schools now offer at least one practical subject, and have

adopted the dictum: "education with production."

But problems remain. Teachers, according to an education analyst at the University of Zimbabwe, are still geared to "turning students into academics like themselves". Even those taking practical subjects do not spend enough time on them to become fully proficient in the skill nor learn "the mix of skills necessary to run a business."

"Our 'O' level students are not skilled enough to be self-employed," concedes Chung. In future, she says, Zimbabwe hopes to introduce much more vocational education, citing Mupfure college as an example of how that might work.

Mupfure students choose one of four core subjects: agriculture,

building, textiles or woodwork. This takes up 75% of study time. The rest goes toward supportive theory subjects such as mathematics, "English for communication", business studies, co-operative theory and development studies.

During their second year, according to headmaster Wilbert Matenga, pupils set up their own "production units", in which they carry out market surveys and actually sell their products. Half of the proceeds goes to the group, the other half toward the running costs of the school.

Students learn management skills by sitting on the school management committee and helping to run its financial affairs. The difference between Mupfure and other schools, says Thepepo,

Mahlungu, a textile student, is that while others offer "education and production, we learn education with production."

Some 54 students from last year's class have set up co-operatives, the names of which — "Grow More Trees" (a carpentry co-operative) and "Frontline Fabrics" — show the enthusiasm of their members, despite the problems they face finding start-up capital.

The key question for Zimbabwe in formulating its future education policy, says Chung, is how society rewards different occupations. If a small-scale farmer earns two to three times the minimum wage, everyone will get the message that it is better to be in that sector, rather than a clerk in town" — PANOS.

Learning for a living

grow a third of the food they eat, participate in the running of the school, and learn how to set up business enterprises when they go out into the world.

Set up in 1986 to help ex-combatants of the independence war find employment, Mupfure's approach is becoming increasingly attractive as Zimbabwe struggles to find its own appropriate school for anyone wishing to go on.

Because of the country's colonial history, education is an especially sensitive issue.

Prior to independence in 1980, only one-third of eligible African children went to primary school, and only one-eighth of these went on to secondary school.

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Neutrals adjust to a changing world

BETWEEN THE PAKISTANI delegation and that from the Moscow-backed Kabul regime.

Overall, however, the Yugoslavs and their allies must be fairly satisfied with the summit, judging from both the tone and content of the final declaration.

This was markedly less confrontational — and much shorter — than most of its predecessors. Gone were some of the old shibboleths, to be replaced by more relevant issues such as the global environment and the Third World's debt burden.

The apparent end of the Cold War, which led to the NAM's creation, was welcomed as a window of opportunity for the international community. But apartheid was condemned, as were Israeli policies.

Inevitably, the presence of the Libyan leader, Muammar Qadhafi provided both a diversion and a distraction. He flew in after celebrating the 20th anniversary of his seizure of power, proclaiming that he had come to "save" the movement from "dying".

Instead of staying at the Libyan Embassy, he pitched a tent in its grounds. His caravan included five camels to provide him with milk as well as two horses for his mounted guards.

These were the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, the USSR's Baltic republics and Alaska. Qadhafi appeared to have forgotten that he had previously called for the return of much of North America to the indigenous Indians.

The summit marked the beginning of Yugoslavia's three-year chairmanship of the NAM. To many observers the grouping's future hinge largely on the extent to which the Yugoslavs can "modernise" it, in other words, steering it on a more pragmatic and meaningful course.

Even at the start of Belgrade's stewardship there were hopeful signs, not least the indications that some of the movement's hardliners sense the new direction in which it is moving. This was believed to be one of the reasons why some familiar faces, including that of Cuba's President Castro, were missing from the conference. — *Lions features*.

Hunting is a topic which enjoys pride of place for the new 1989/90 shoe collections. Warm shades of red and rust are numbered among the models in city and country style, which the German Shoe Institute presented in Frankfurt.

The new models from the German Shoe Institute

Nobly formed and in dark colours

By Hilde Simek

FRANKFURT/MAIN — The new shoe fashion for 1989/90 is "foot compatible." Foreign sales are flourishing for the German leather industry. From 1987 to 88, exports of leather rose from 21,166 to 23,787 tonnes (plus 12.1 per cent), the total value of the goods rose from \$80.6 to \$86.7 million DM. The main customers were the EC states — above all, the Benelux countries and Portugal — along with Yugoslavia.

The leather industry feels confident because of the qualitatively high and fashionable shoes offered by German shoe

factories (some 270 firms with around 35,000 staff), which have just presented their new collections. A diversity of forms and colours — ranging from sporty walking shoes to fur-lined boots by way of models in city and country look, ballerines and pumps to high-heeled sandalettes for the evening and elegant patent leather shoes for gentlemen.

Apart from black, brown and blue, the dominating colours are warm shades of red, rust and gold. Trade experts also appreciated distinguished shades of green from kiwi to fir. It seems likely that this year the shoe industry in the

Federal Republic of Germany will achieve an even better turnover than in 1988 (around 6 billion DM). Makers of fashionable ladies' handbags and leather cases also anticipate doing good business.

However, in spite of these favourable aspects, the Association of the German Leather Industry in Frankfurt/Main regards the future with a certain amount of scepticism. A degree of market saturation and a growing pressure caused by imports are causing trouble. Between 1987 and 88 for instance, German leather production dropped from 30,908 to 28,844 tonnes. The number of

leather factories also fell. There were different developments on the various sectors. Even makers of fashionable leather jackets, coats and other leatherwear complain of a "difficult market." Although the value of leather imports dropped in 1988 by 3.4 per cent to around 1.45 billion DM, it still amounted to almost 62 per cent more than the value of German leather exports. Numbered among the main suppliers of the German market in 1988, were Italy, Austria, India, France and the USA.

— IN Press

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G-7 prepare to succumb dollar's rise

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Finance officials of the world's seven largest economic powers have expressed dismay at the persistent increase in the value of the U.S. dollar this year and pledged to take coordinated action if necessary to drive the currency lower.

In their first meeting since April, the finance ministers and central bank governors of the so-called Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Great Britain, France, Canada and Italy — Saturday stepped up their rhetoric about curbing the buoyant dollar.

The rising dollar threatens to derail improvement in the U.S. trade deficit.

The Group of Seven (G-7) talks were being held before the start of the annual meetings of the IMF and its sister lending organisation, the World Bank.

The group had expressed a similar concern last spring, but the tone of the statement released Saturday was considerably stronger, holding out the threat that if the dollar rises any further the economic powers would intervene together in world currency markets.

"The ministers and governors considered the rise in recent months of the dollar inconsistent with longer run economic fundamentals," the group said in a two-page communique released after the eight-hour meeting.

"They agreed that a rise of the dollar above current levels... could adversely affect prospects for the world economy... (and) agreed to cooperate closely in exchange markets," the statement said.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady emphasised this part of the communique in a briefing for reporters but he refused to say what specific actions the countries would be willing to take if the dollar goes higher.

In April, the officials used milder language and simply said they agreed that "a rise of the dollar which undermined adjustment efforts... would be counterproductive."

"distractive," not any rise.

The group, meeting two hours longer than expected, also addressed topics ranging from the Third World's crushing \$1.3 trillion debt to Western efforts to aid economic reforms in Eastern Europe.

Officials told reporters the extra time was devoted to discussing events in Poland and Hungary, which the communique termed "historic."

"The whole meeting of the G-7 became electric when he started talking about the events going on in the Soviet Union and Poland," Brady said, adding that the finance ministers hoped the 152-nation International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be able to reach quick agreement on a loan package for Poland.

On Third World debt, the communique praised Brady's latest initiative for achieving "substantial progress."

Since the Brady plan was announced in March, commercial banks have struck tentative agreements granting relief to Mexico and the Philippines.

Last week, however, three major U.S. banks added more than \$4 billion to their loss reserves for developing country loans.

Analysts are expressing concern that this could signal unwillingness to make enough new money available to sustain growth in the developing nations, most of them in Latin America.

The communique noted the development, saying "diversified financial support from the banks is needed to support sound economic reform programmes through a broad array of new lending and debt service reduction mechanisms."

But, it was the group's remarks on the dollar that were most

eagerly awaited by financial markets.

"That's a much stronger statement against any rise in the dollar," said economist David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Co., a government securities dealer. "I would expect on the heels of that statement more aggressive dollar selling from central banks."

He said the G-7 countries likely now will be willing to accelerate the decline of the dollar when it is falling on its own, not just counter any rise. And, he speculated that Japan and Germany would show more willingness in the months ahead to raise their interest rates as a means of influencing exchange markets.

Possibly, he said the Federal Reserve may nudge U.S. rates lower.

An increase in Japanese and West German interest rates would make investing in those countries more attractive and would thus raise the value of their currencies. A cut in interest rates in the United States would push

the dollar lower.

The G-7 has issued statements in the past pledging to hold the dollar down. But despite heavy intervention in currency markets — the buying and selling of currencies to influence exchange rates — efforts have been largely unsuccessful. The volume of private currency trading has grown so huge that it dwarfs any buying or selling that central banks can do.

Since the last G-7 meeting, the dollar has appreciated by about 10 per cent against the Japanese yen and three per cent against the Deutsche mark. The dollar Friday bought 146 yen and 1.95 marks, well above what is presumed to be the upper limit of the trade range sought by the G-7 — 140 yen and 1.90 marks.

A strong dollar hurts the trade deficit by raising the price of U.S. goods on overseas markets while making foreign goods cheaper for American consumers. The trade gap shrank by 22 per cent last year, but progress has slowed in

1989, with the deficit shrinking at only about half of last year's rate.

In addition to the narrow question of exchange rates, Finance officials discussed the broader issue of economic coordination.

The United States has been pressuring West Germany and Japan to stimulate consumer demand in their countries as a means of cutting their trade surpluses and reducing the U.S. deficit.

The United States, in turn, is being urged to reignite efforts to curb its budget deficit, which is believed to contribute to the trade deficit.

Meanwhile, the world's poorer nations Saturday called on the rich to do more to help ease the crushing burden of Third World debt.

Finance ministers and officials from developing nations issued a communique after meeting in Washington expressing deep concern over the deterioration in countries struggling under heavy foreign debt.

The Group of 24, which represents the 78 developing countries in the IMF and World Bank, met here to present the Third World's viewpoint to the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank.

"Ministers... restated their deep concern over the deterioration of economic and social conditions in heavily indebted countries," the communique said.

"The overall external debt situation of the developing countries remains critical... and the continued negative net transfers of resources... have a considerable adverse impact on growth prospects of these countries," it said.

The group welcomed recent moves on debt reduction such as the initiative unveiled in March by Brady, but said they were not enough.

It said the existing market-based strategy for tackling the world debt crisis shuts out too many debtor countries.

Ministers said multilateral agencies — like the IMF and World Bank — and richer gov-

ernments should step up support for initiatives to help ease the debt burden.

Financial imbalances in industrial nations have pushed up interest rates, and therefore debt service costs, while commodity prices have deteriorated, the communique said.

The group said the Brady plan overlooks countries like Colombia which are middle income debtors and have faithfully serviced their debt but receive no reward through relief on payments.

"We believe our payments record should be rewarded by better access to multilateral lending," Colombian Finance Minister Fernando Alarcon told journalists.

The group argued more flexible use of IMF and World Bank resources for debt reduction and speedier disbursement.

It said the Toronto agreement, in which creditors offered a three-option relief plan for 13 sub-Saharan countries, should be ex-

tended to other poor countries. The plan has so far been applied to \$3 billion of debt.

The ministers also noted that debt relief is only being granted to countries that have made progress in economic adjustment while those whose economies are beyond revival without debt relief are not granted it.

Creditor nations should do more to help countries like Guyana and Peru, in arrears to the IMF, the communique said.

It also supported an increase of at least 100 per cent in IMF resources to help deal with the debt problem.

The ministers welcomed World Bank lending to help developing countries cope with environmental deterioration but said these loans should not impose additional conditions.

They said industrial countries bear prime responsibility for environmental problems and they should avoid actions that lead to dumping toxic wastes in developing nations.

Jordan boasts of major achievements in electric generation

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has come a long way since the 1930s when electricity generation was launched in Amman with small diesel engines with a total capacity of 50 megawatts (Mw). Now 96 per cent of the Kingdom enjoys elec-

tricity. The remaining four per cent represent remote and sparsely populated villages where it is uneconomical to extend the national network.

Fawwaz Karmi, technical planning manager at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), says the main JEA objective is to supply electricity that "is of good quality

as well as good reliability standard at the least possible cost and without any limits that would penalise consumers."

There are two main power stations in Jordan, the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station at Zarqa and the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. JEA also have several diesel-run and gas-run power-generating facilities. Karmi explained the advantage of thermal power stations in that they have the highest efficiency for burning fuel. Steam-run generators account for 85 per cent of JEA production while gas constitutes eight per cent. Since diesel oil is expensive, Karmi explained, the JEA tries to use the gas turbines as little as possible. JEA also have two hydro-electric sites, one in Aqaba and the other in the King Talal Dam connected to the national grid. Wind and solar turbines constitute a very minimal percentage of the national output.

According to Karmi, "the three are all pilot projects just to demonstrate the equipment, for they are too expensive to dominate other electrical generation." Jordan is the first country in the Middle East to have a wind energy farm, situated in Irbid in the north. Although it is very limited, Karmi foresees a future in this technology. "But we cannot expand unless we get good offers," he said.

JEA has completed a feasibility study to link the national grids of Egypt and Jordan. Egypt's installed capacity is around 9000 Mw and the maximum load for production capacity is 6500 Mw, while Jordan has a total capacity of 950 Mw with a maximum load of 550 Mw. The next step in the linkage project is an engineering study to design the interconnection route, after which specifications for tender documents will be prepared.

"This interconnection is beneficial in that it enables the exchange of power in an emergency which reduces the reserve," Karmi said. He also pointed out that the production costs in both countries differ, therefore a transfer from a lower to a higher production cost system will result in reduced costs.

JEA is also striving to reduce its production cost, according to Karmi. Its focus has also shifted

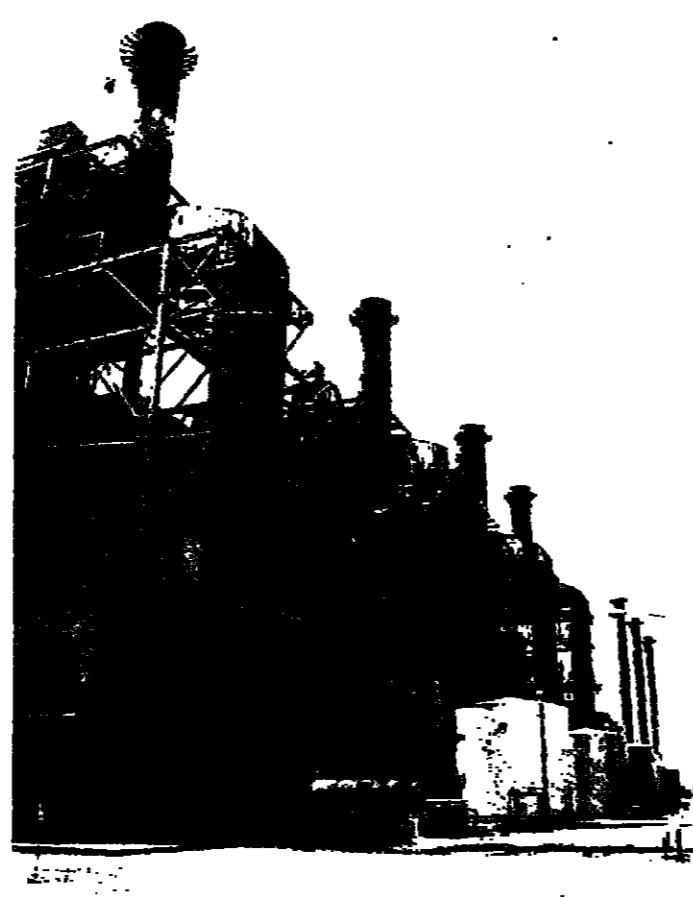
to utilising natural gas. With the inauguration of a 60-Mw gas plant at Al Rishieh, near the Iraqi border, in March, JEA hopes to trim about 10 per cent off the country's 50,000 barrels of a day requirement of imported oil. "Continuous monitoring of the system performance and taking measures to improve the efficiency of power plants reduce losses throughout the network from the supply side," said Karmi. He said that JEA follows a philosophy based on better management of the demand side to reduce cost of electricity.

JEA has stopped electricity exports to Syria, according to Karmi. In a joint venture with European consultants, the JEA has conducted a study to provide technical services to Mauritania. Karmi noted the JEA had entered several agreements with international firms which include training, technical and feasibility studies. "We feel that we have acquired certain expertise in specific fields," he said. "We will be able to provide our technical services in the region as well as in developed countries."

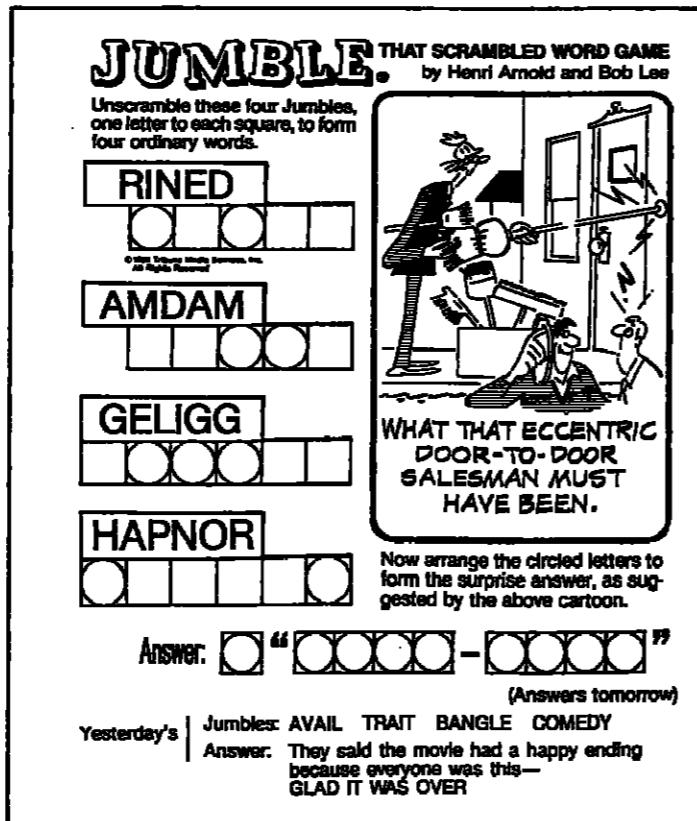
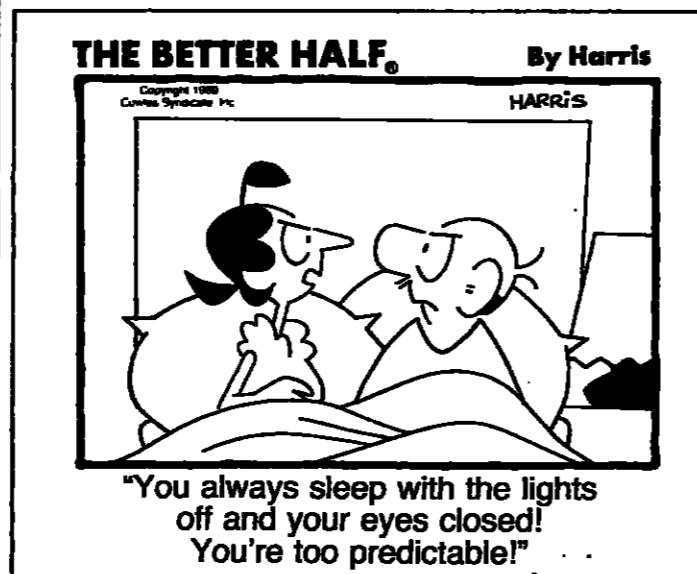
Karmi explains that JEA's aim in the coming five years is "to concentrate on the demand-side management and energy conservation to reduce consumption." This is done by exploring all the possible indigenous resources to cover the increasing demand for energy and electricity.

JEA will also improve the components of the power system and increase its efficiency as well as reducing losses. "The rate of electricity growth is still high and in the range of eight to 10 per cent," Karmi said.

Included in JEA future plans is a project to develop hydro-carbon reserves of oil. According to Karmi, deposits have been found in central Jordan with abundant quantities. JEA will also concentrate on utilising natural gas by building more plants. Whether Jordan has enough reserves "remains to be seen," said Karmi. One of the reasons for building the gas turbines in Al Rishieh was "to help our systems organise Natural Resources Authority tests to estimate and evaluate the actual reserves of gas," he added.



Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa



Peanuts

Mutt 'n Jeff

Andy Capp



ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Palm oil prices seen going up

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Palm oil prices, now around 690-700 ringgit (\$225-259) a ton, are expected to climb to about 1,000 ringgit (\$370) by the year end, the chairman of the government-run Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia has said. "Buyers should grab the opportunity to buy as much as possible now when the price is still low," Mohammad Said said in a speech. Mohammad said a thorough analysis of price trends, based on production, consumption patterns and current trade in the world's major edible oils and fats, indicated that the present low prices were short-term.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Buy	Sell	French franc	92.7	93.6
611.3	617.3	Japanese yen (for 100)	419.1	420.2
922.8	972.4	Dutch guilder	277.8	280.6
313.2	316.3	Swedish krona	92.7	93.5
361.4	365.0	Italian lira (for 100)	25.5	26.9
		Belgian franc (for 10)	149.9	151.4

Sunday, September 24, 1989
Central Bank official rates

U.S. dollar 611.3 617.3 **French franc** 92.7 93.6
Pound Sterling 922.8 972.4 **Japanese yen (for 100)** 419.1 420.2
Deutschmark 313.2 316.3 **Dutch guilder** 277.8 280.6
Swiss franc 361.4 365.0 **Swedish krona** 92.7 93.5
Italian lira (for 100) 25.5 26.9 **Belgian franc (for 10)** 149.9 151.4

Answer: **AVAIL THAT BANGLE COMEDY**
Yesterday's Answer: They said the movie had a happy ending because everyone was **GLAD IT WAS OVER**

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1989 7

Chang enters finals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Top-seeded Michael Chang, who has not lost a set in four matches here, beat Scott Davis 6-4, 6-4 Saturday in the semifinals of the Volvo Tennis Men's Tournament.

Second-seeded Brad Gilbert and fifth-seeded Aaron Krickstein played in a night match at the Los Angeles Tennis Center for the right to meet Chang in Sunday's final.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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EXCEPTION PROVES THE RULE

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ 6
▼ 8

♦ A Q J 10 9 8

♦ A J 7 6 4

WEST EAST

♦ A 10 9 7 5 ♦ K 8 4 3

▼ A Q 6 5 3 ♦ K 4

♦ Q 5 2 ♦ K 7 6 5 3

♦ K 9 5 2 ♦ K 8

SOUTH

♦ Q J 2

▼ J 10 9 7 2

♦ 4 2

♦ Q 10 3

The bidding:

West North East South

1 NT 2 NT 3 0 Pass

3 0 Pass 4 5 Pass

Pass Pass Dbl Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

If there is one rubric we would have asserted should never be broken, it would have been: "Don't underlead an ace against a suit contractor." Then this deal came along.

North's hand is what we would consider typical for the Unusual No Trump convention, which shows a

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Superpowers offer to stop Cambodia arms

MOSCOW (R) — Fresh violence erupted in Soviet Asia and nationalist unrest rumbled on in other republics despite Kremlin pledges to tackle ethnic injustices and clamp down on disturbances.

Three people died in street fighting involving several dozen young people armed with sticks, stones and metal bars in Semipalatinsk, eastern Kazakhstan.

Although ethnic disputes were not officially given as the reason for Thursday's flare-up, TASS news agency said the fighting was a settling of accounts between neighbourhoods.

From the names of the dead, all aged 16 or 17, it was clear the fighting had involved Kazakhs and Russians.

The trouble erupted the day after the Communist Party's Central Committee ended a two-day plenary meeting devoted to solving the country's ethnic problems.

Nearly 300 people have died in unrest over the past 18 months.

The worst clashes have been over Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory claimed by the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Unrest at Novy Uzen in Kazakhstan killed five people in June. More than 100 died in violence in neighbouring Uzbekistan and trouble spread to Kirgizia and Tajikistan.

The unrest is seen as the biggest threat to President Mikhail Gorbachev's political and social reforms. At last week's Central Committee meeting conservatives led by Politburo member

Yegor Ligachev repeatedly linked outbreaks of disorder with calls by reformers for radical change.

The committee approved a document extending the rights of the country's 15 republics and pledging to resolve the problems of minorities repressed by dictator Josef Stalin.

Gorbachev called for greater tolerance of national languages and traditions but promised tough measures to prevent violence.

He also denounced talks of secession as an "irresponsible game" a reference to some calls in the Baltic republics to turn their drive for autonomy from Moscow into outright independence.

Other weekend developments in widely separated parts of the country suggested that the Central Committee's appeals had fallen on deaf ears.

In Lithuania, the local Communist Party leadership published a draft programme calling for separation from the Soviet party.

The republic's parliament in Vilnius formally adopted a commission report denouncing the Red Army's occupation in 1940 and declaring invalid a vote to join the Soviet Union.

Parliament in Azerbaijan passed a law declaring its territory indivisible, signalling it would not drop its claim to Nagorno-Karabakh, over which it was granted jurisdiction in 1923.

In Armenia, parliament ex-



Khmer Rouge troops smiling after they captured several Cambodian government camps near Phnom Penh where fighting has intensified since the Vietnamese withdrawal began.

amined the severe shortages caused by the month-old blockade of rail traffic inspired by Azerbaijani workers pressing their case for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Soviet television quoted officials as saying that pasta, matches and rice were now unavailable, along with fuel, building materials and newspaper.

Soviet experts say serious economic problems are a prime fac-



Dan Quayle

tor behind the unrest, particularly in the Central Asian republics where officials say about one million people are in effect out of work.

Young people with little to do, rampant corruption during the tenure of now disgraced Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, and environmental damage have all contributed to the problems.

In the Central Asian republics where officials say about one million people are in effect out of work.

The sides declared their readiness to announce, together with other states, a moratorium on military assistance to all Cambodian factions as part of a comprehensive settlement," the statement said.

It ignored U.S. criticism of Moscow for continuing to back

Centre east of Tokyo Monday, the officials said.

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